

## LAUGHING GULL (*Larus atricilla megalopterus*)

<b>Conservation Status:</b> Abundance (b=breeding, nb=nonbreeding, t=total individuals), Population Importance (% reference population) and Conservation Rank							
Global	North America	BCR 14	BCR 30	Mid-Atlantic	S. New England	Gulf of Maine	Maritimes
807,000 – 837,000t	528,000 – 538,000b (>80% global)	2,704b (<1% NA)	202,646b (38% NA)	189,122b (92% MANEM)	13,524b (7% MANEM)	2,702b (1% MANEM)	2b (0% MANEM)
IUCN- Not Evaluated	NAWCP- Not currently at risk	Not at risk	Not at risk	NJ- S5B; DE- S4B; MD- S1B, S4N; VA- S3S4 <b>MANEM Focal Species</b>	NY-S1; CT-SZN; RI- SZN; MA-S2; VT-na <b>MANEM Focal Species</b>	MA-S2, NH-SZN; ME-S2S3B; NB-S1B; NS- S2N	QC-SN; NB-S1B; PE- no info; NS- S2N

  

○ - Breeding site (Mar-Aug)

■ BCR 14  
■ BCR 30

**Regional Occurrence** [BCRs 14 (LME 8), 30 (LME 7)]

- Distribution: breeds in region
- Habitats used: salt marsh islands, sandy islands with scattered patches of long grass (breeding); seacoasts, bays, estuaries (non-breeding); foraging: non-breeding summer birds 30-60 km inland from coastal breeding sites; breeders may fly 40 km for food; coast at edge of water; inland during high tides and high winds and to find insects in meadows and plowed fields; also feeds on inland lakes, marshes, coastal marshes, impoundments and pools

NAWCP BD=3; NAWCP ND=2

**Regional Abundance**

- 1990s: US—205,348b (275 colonies); CAN—2b
- 1970s: US—129,768b (63 colonies)
- 58% increase in regional population

NAWCP PS=2; NAWCP PT=2

**Regional Threats/Limiting Factors**

- Habitat degradation and loss due to coastal development
- Human intrusion and predation at nesting colonies (will abandon site early in season)
- Pesticide contamination (esp. DDE and organochlorines)
- Competes with other species of conservation concern (i.e. HERG) at nesting areas
- Collisions at several airports has led to direct killing as control technique
- Rack deposits, sea water rise, storm tides

NAWCP TB=2; NAWCP TN=2

  

<p><b>Conservation Needs:</b> <i>Sustainability:</i> 1.4 fledglings/nest; <i>Conservation Actions:</i> No established management plans currently implemented; some states conduct periodic monitoring of population status; <i>Needs:</i> monitor, manage conflicts with tern species and RedKnots, manage local sites; <i>Population Goals:</i> maintain (below maximum) at 168,500-205,900b; <i>Habitat Goals:</i> TBD</p>
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